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# **SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND**



## **ANNUAL REPORT 1993-1994**

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STATE DOCUMENTS



# South Carolina Commission for the Blind

DONALD GIST, Commissioner

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June 30, 1994

The Honorable Carroll A. Campbell, Jr.  
Governor, State of South Carolina  
Columbia, South Carolina

Dear Governor Campbell:

It is with great pleasure that I present this year's Annual Report detailing the accomplishments of the South Carolina Commission for the Blind. The Agency witnessed new challenges in its quest to remain a viable service oriented entity for the blind. Reaffirming our commitment to quality services for blind citizens and accountability to the taxpayers, the South Carolina Commission for the Blind proudly highlights its successes for fiscal year 1993-94.

Among those successes were the development and subsequent implementation of an automated procurement system. The system, now operational in the Agency's 11 district offices, augments all aspects of fiscal accountability.

In the area of rehabilitation programs, the pursuit of excellence generated sweeping changes designed to enforce the 1992 Amendments to the Rehabilitation Act. The administration of new programmatic initiatives resulted in a realignment of service delivery components within the Vocational Rehabilitation Program. Realignment places client services at the local level and provides individuals with more choices as they select their vocational objectives. Localization also eliminates unnecessary bureaucratic duplication, thereby expediting services.

For the first time since 1978, the Commission provided readily accessible services in the Aiken region by opening a new Aiken District Office in May 1994. The Commission also allocated funds to expand services in our Conway and Spartanburg district offices.

Underscoring our commitment to excellence, our Agency continues to promote fair employment practices, quality client services in an expedited, nondiscriminatory manner and total accountability to the General Assembly and the taxpayers of the State of South Carolina.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donald Gist  
Commissioner



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# **S.C. COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND**

**Donald Gist**  
***Commissioner***

## **GOVERNING BOARD**

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**VACANT.....**  
***(6th Congressional District)***



### ***Legislative Compliance***

The South Carolina Commission for the Blind is in compliance with the provisions of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VI and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, and all requirements imposed pursuant thereto to the end that no person shall, on the grounds of sex, race, age, color, national origin or disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or otherwise subject to discrimination in the provision of any care or service. Any client participant, potential client or interested person who is of an opinion that benefits are provided on a discriminatory basis has the right to file a complaint with the State Agency or Federal Agency or both.

### ***Legal Blindness Qualifications***

1. "Blindness" is defined as the level of central visual acuity, 20/200 or less in the better eye with the best corrective lens, or a disqualifying field defect in which the peripheral field has contracted to such an extent that the widest diameter of visual field subtends an angular distance no greater than 20 degrees and which is sufficient to incapacitate him or her for self-support, or an 80 percent loss of visual efficiency resulting from visual impairment in more than one function of the eye, including visual acuity for distance and near visual fields, ocular mobility, and other ocular functions and disturbances.

2. "Severe visual disability" is defined as any progressive pathological condition of the eye or eyes, supported by an acceptable eye examination, which in the opinion of the examiner may or will result in legal blindness within 24 months.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

Sound management practices are a priority in the administration of programs and client services at the South Carolina Commission for the Blind. This Agency, in FY 93/94, underwent extensive scrutiny from external auditing entities at both the Federal and State levels. Those audits resulted in a reaffirmation of competent performance by the men and women leading this Agency into the 21st century. The Administration, faced with potential paybacks in excess of \$1.5 million, moved swiftly and responsibly to eradicate any payback provisions that would have disproportionately disrupted services to blind people and imposed a financial burden on the coffers of State taxpayers.

The \$1.5 million potential obligation of the Agency now has been reduced to \$140,000 plus interest. These liabilities were incurred due to federal irregularities occurring in 1988, 1989 and 1991.

An updated fiscal agenda and the leadership of agency staff have allowed the Commission to operate within budgetary constraints and attain its commitment to excellence in terms of financial and human resource management accountability. The Commission's Human Resource Management Program received an excellent rating in its handling of audits relating to fair employment practices. This represents a complete turnaround from the pervasive racial divisiveness which existed at the Commission for the Blind prior to 1990.

The Technical Services Division (TSD) remains an important complement to our vocational rehabilitation effort. The division trains clients in the operation of high-tech assistive devices used in the workplace. This is crucial to preparation for the year 2000. During FY 93/94, 21 clients participated in the Commission's Assistive Technology Training Program, and the division installed equipment for clients at 32 job sites.

The Agency's Transportation Program further buttresses our efforts to secure employment for blind citizens. In FY 93/94, trips for employment and employment-related training totaled 15,128. The program made 4,144 trips for medical and other related reasons.

#### Finance Division

The Finance Division encompasses four units: Budgeting, Purchasing, Accounting and Property Management. This division ensures fiscal accountability to state and federal authorities as well as to the general public. It also provides all necessary administrative support to the direct services programs.

The Agency's \$8 million dollar budget comprises state appropriations, federal, and earmarked funds. The US Department of Education - Vocational Rehabilitation Basic Support Program awards federal funds through entitlement, which accounts for more than half (\$4.5 million) of the Commission's budget. The Social Security Administration, in particular the Social Security Reimbursement and Disability Determination programs, is another primary provider of federal funds. Sales from the concession benefits operating stands and donations comprise the majority of the earmarked funds.



The Commissioner employs the concept of participatory management in the budgetary process. Executive managers and other staff play a vital role in determining and executing the budget plan for the Agency. Agency staff use LOTUS 1-2-3, a financial software spreadsheet to develop its budget plan.

During fiscal year 1994, the Finance Division developed and implemented an on-line purchasing requisition system. The centralized Purchasing Unit processed approximately 2,142 purchase authorizations, while the field staff generated another 5,972 or more authorizations for direct client services such as medical and educational services. The Accounting Unit, using BARS (Basic Accounting and Reporting System) software, processed more than 6,703 disbursement vouchers for payments to private vendors, state entities and employees. Accounting also encumbered the purchase authorization amounts, thereby providing a more accurate picture of the Agency's financial position on any given report. Accounting processed more than 8,114 encumbrances.

#### Division of Human Resources

The Division of Human Resources plans, administers and formulates policy direction for Human Resource Management and Development programs and provides technical advice and support to staff in implementing these programs.

During FY 93/94, the Division of Human Resources coordinated and implemented the following programs: Recruitment of New Staff; Classification, Compensation and Payroll; Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Affirmative Action reporting and statistics; Employee Performance Management System (EPMS); Grievance and Appeal; Progressive Discipline; Employee Personnel Records; Employee Identification Card Program; State Group Health, Life and Dental Insurance Programs; Attendance and Leave; Workers' Compensation; Employee State Service Award Program; Employee Wellness Program; Fair Labor Standards Act compliance; and various other programs addressing employee relations, benefits and staff development under the Rehabilitation Services Administration In-service Training Grant.

During FY 93/94, the following in-service programs were provided: Case Management Training with emphasis on the 1992 Amendments to the Vocational Rehabilitation Act, Introduction to Cultural Diversity, New Staff Orientation and a variety of individual training programs specific to rehabilitation professionals.

## Employment and Training Division

The mission of the Employment and Training Division is to provide appropriate job training, job development and job placement for South Carolina's employable blind population. This division of the SCCB operates with three employment consultants and a director in order to more effectively meet the employment needs of our clients throughout the state. In FY 93/94 employment consultants continued to utilize the South Carolina Occupational Information System (SCOIS) to generate computerized information from the South Carolina Employment Security Commission. SCOIS provides vocational rehabilitation counselors with statewide job vacancies and training programs.

Employment consultants were directly responsible for implementing 19 on-the-job training (OJT) programs during this fiscal year. There were 29 blind and severely visually impaired clients successfully placed in employment -- either on jobs at designated OJT sites or placed directly into employment. Quality employment opportunities were developed for clients who completed the Customer Service Representative Program (CSR) at Spartanburg Technical College. This training program was a cooperative effort between the SCCB, Spartanburg Technical College and the SC School for the Deaf and Blind.

The Employment and Training Division maintains a statewide Job Network Bank by continuously updating information. The purpose is to match qualified applicants with jobs that have been identified by the employment consultants. In addition, this division has established a method to notify vocational rehabilitation counselors of current employment opportunities specifically developed for blind and visually impaired individuals.

Along with job development, training and placement, this division has taken an active role in conducting workshops for employers, personnel associations and civic groups on issues regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The Employment and Training Division also has conducted sensitivity and awareness workshops for various companies and community groups.

## Technical Services Division

The Technical Services Division (TSD), a technological resource within the Commission, provides a vast array of employment, braille, office automation and community services. Chief among these is to determine if equipment and/or workplace modifications are necessary for a legally blind individual to perform a specific job-related function.



TSD staff performed 30 job site evaluations, installed software and equipment for clients at 32 sites, de-installed software and equipment at six sites, performed on-site maintenance and repair services 30 times and handled 36 calls for help from consumers. These calls were problems which could be resolved over the phone.

The Assistive Technology Training Program is a comprehensive one-on-one instructional methodology designed to enable blind and visually impaired consumers to use personal computer-based assistive devices consisting of large print screen display, screen readers with speech synthesizers and refreshable braille. Twelve consumers participated in the Assistive Technology Training Program. Eight summer students, including one multi-handicapped student, also received training.

In FY 93/94 TSD staff conducted six presentations on assistive technology (attended by 90 individuals), 15 in-house demonstrations on assistive devices and software at the Commission (attended by 46 individuals) and responded to 27 calls for assistive technology information.

This fiscal year TSD provided or assisted in the completion of 93 requests for braille from in-house sources, other agencies and the public totaling 5,061 pages.

The division also contacted 75 nursing home facilities, provided in-depth information on SCCB services as well as other available resources for senior visually impaired residents, and conducted in-service training for staff at 27 facilities.

## **DIVISION OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

The Division of Public Affairs is comprised of the Office of Public Information, SC Educational Radio for the Blind, Volunteer Services, Staff Development and Training (as it pertains to blindness) and the Media Center. These departments function collectively to promote the immediate dissemination of all South Carolina Commission for the Blind program and service information to our clients as well as to the general public through articles, broadcasts, brochures, news releases, public service announcements, the scheduling of television/radio appearances, etc.

### **Office of Public Information**

The Office of Public Information promotes Agency programs and services through the development of news releases/articles, videotapes, public

service announcements, photographs, newsletters, brochures, the scheduling of television and radio interviews, etc.

The office responds to inquiries from the general public and the media and, while monitoring compliance with federal confidentiality laws, oversees the release of Agency information as set forth under the State Freedom of Information Act.

In addition, the office works closely with the Commissioner and Agency staff to keep abreast of new or expanded initiatives within the Agency and determine the most effective method of informing clients, potential clients and the public at-large.

During fiscal year 1993-94 the Office of Public Information completed a videotape of the Commission's Business Enterprise Program. The ultimate purpose of the video is to expand employment opportunities for blind licensed vendors. The video features testimonials from satisfied customers as well as vendors successfully operating various vending facilities in cafeterias, canteens and at highway rest areas.

#### Educational Radio for the Blind

South Carolina Educational Radio for the Blind (SCERB) provides more than 3,300 blind South Carolinians access to daily newspapers, weekly and monthly magazines and other printed material through radio receivers on loan to clients. The special radios are tuned to a subchannel of the South Carolina Educational Radio station nearest the listener. The subchannel carries 126 hours of programming produced each week by radio staff and volunteer readers. Listeners are able to hear daily obituary listings, editorials and news articles appearing in nine of the daily newspapers published in South Carolina. In our effort to make current printed material accessible to clients in a timely manner, SCERB staff and volunteers record articles from weekly magazines such as **Time**, **People**, **TV Guide**, **Businessweek** and monthly magazines including **Good Housekeeping**, **Men's Health**, **Dog Fancy** and **Southern Living**. Listeners can hear topical programs, newspapers, magazines and books 18 hours per day, 365 days of the year.

For the third consecutive year, radio staff worked with the Children's Services Department to provide audio description of the Ringling Brothers/Barnum & Bailey Circus.



The Radio Production Training Program continued with classes for the summer teens and individualized training for adult clients. In level one, clients learn to operate a multi-source radio control board, professional reel-to-reel, cart machine, compact disc, and cassette equipment. They also learn to produce radio programs with the equipment. Level two emphasizes interviewing techniques so that by the end of the course clients are proficient in the skills necessary for employment in the broadcast industry.

### Volunteer Services

The Volunteer Services Program assigns volunteers to a variety of settings within the Agency; however, the majority assist Educational Radio staff in reading print material for broadcast over the network. Volunteers also assist with braille production, parent conferences and other special projects. In FY 93/94, 456 radio volunteers gave 7,342.21 hours to the South Carolina Commission for the Blind. Their gift of time and effort has a value of \$62,094.89.

### Staff Development and Training

The South Carolina Commission for the Blind Staff Development and Training component trains Agency employees in matters pertaining to blindness: sighted guide training; assistance to a blind person, yet enabling him or her to retain independence; social/psychological aspects of blindness; diseases of the eye; etc. As a community resource, Staff Development and Training conducts workshops for other agencies, organizations, hospitals and schools. In FY 93/94, this component provided new employee orientation for Agency staff and conducted 11 specialized in-service training opportunities for organizations outside the Agency.

### Media Center

The Media Center is a production clearinghouse for braille, tape or large print material for use by legally blind residents of South Carolina and is an on-site library for client use. The Center produces materials for SCCB clients, staff members and for community use (i.e., menus, information for service clubs, etc.).

The Media Center assists in the location, distribution and storage of textbooks and tangible aids for the South Carolina Department of Education, Programs for the Disabled. The librarian also serves as Agency

liaison with the South Carolina State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped and coordinates the in-state volunteer tape program.

Requests for materials during fiscal year 1993-94 were as follows:

		% increase over previous fiscal year
Braille	719	22%
Tape	581	24%
Large Print	490	36%

In FY 93/94 the Media Center experienced a 26 percent increase in all activity in comparison to the previous fiscal year.

## **VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION DIVISION**

The Vocational Rehabilitation Division of the SC Commission for the Blind provides assistance to blind and severely visually impaired clients in securing productive employment and in achieving economic independence.

A variety of vocational rehabilitation services are available to enable blind and severely visually impaired South Carolinians to obtain or maintain employment. The goal is for each client to reach his/her vocational potential. Vocational rehabilitation services available to eligible clients include: job development and job placement, medical treatment, psychological and vocational counseling, independent living skills training, vocational training, occupational tools and equipment, and rehabilitation technology services.

Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors work with each client to develop an Individualized Written Rehabilitation Program (IWRP), which lists specific services to be provided so that a client may achieve his/her vocational objective.

Examples of jobs blind South Carolinians obtained as a result of vocational rehabilitation services this fiscal year are: sewing machine operator, nursing assistant, day care owner/operator, assembler, customer service representative, mechanic, college professor and guidance counselor.

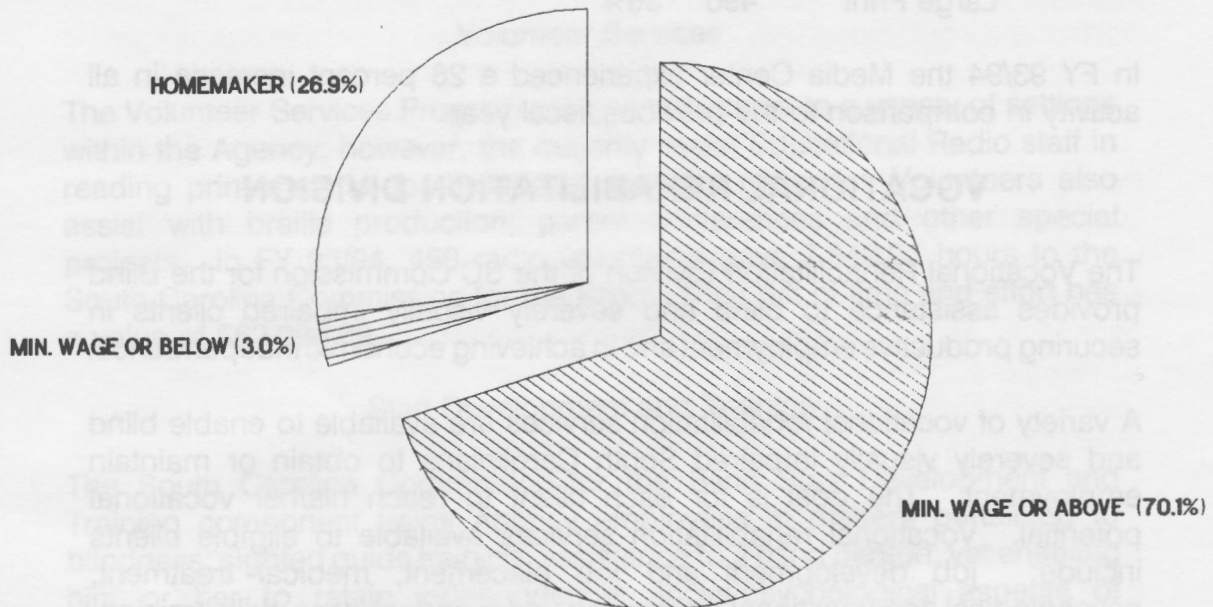
During State fiscal year 1993-94, the Commission's Vocational Rehabilitation Division closed 167 cases as successfully rehabilitated. Of this number, 117 or 70 percent were closed with earnings at or above minimum wage: earning at least \$4.25 per hour and working a minimum of 20 hours. Five individuals or three percent earned below minimum wage,



and 45 individuals or 27 percent were closed as homemakers or unpaid family workers.

### **SUCCESSFULLY REHABILITATED**

**TOTAL - 167 CASES**



There has been a significant decline in the total number of clients successfully rehabilitated during FY 93/94 as compared to FY 92/93. This is due to the implementation of the 1992 Amendments to the Federal Vocational Rehabilitation Act, which emphasizes and mandates that services must be provided to the most severely disabled individuals. The agency is in the process of identifying this group of individuals. Examples of individuals who meet the definition of most severely disabled are those who are deaf/blind or who have another disability in addition to their blindness such as quadriplegia, paraplegia, cerebral palsy or diabetes.

The agency has hired a supported employment coordinator whose responsibilities are to serve this specific group of vocational rehabilitation clients. It is anticipated that these individuals will require multiple services over an extended period of time.

Vocational rehabilitation counselors and regional directors have been provided training on the regulations pertaining to the Supported

Employment Program. Additionally, a multi-sensory specialist has been hired to work with deaf/blind individuals and others who have sensory impairments in addition to their blindness.

During the fall and winter of 1993, vocational rehabilitation staff received additional training in the implementation of the 1992 Amendments to the Vocational Rehabilitation Act.

#### PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

##### Workload Indicators: (1993-94)

- 1,237 Clients served in Rehabilitation Services Program
- 139 Clients served in the Ellen Beach Mack Center
- 45 Clients served at the SC School f/t Deaf & Blind
- 286 Clients served in the Low Vision Clinic
- 126 Clients served at the Rocky Bottom Camp of the Blind
- 27 Clients served in the Technical Services Division
- 8 Clients served in the Radio Training Program
- 115 Clients served in the Business Enterprise Program

##### Efficiency Measures: (1993-94)

- \$3,439 cost per client for general rehabilitation services
- \$5,784 cost per client for training at the Ellen Beach Mack Rehabilitation Training Center
- \$4,023 cost per client for training/assistance provided by the Technical Services Division
- \$6,770 cost per client operating a vending stand facility
- \$302 cost per client receiving training at the Rocky Bottom Camp of the Blind
- \$2,056 cost per client participating in the Spartanburg School for the Deaf and Blind - Rehabilitation Mini Center

##### Effectiveness Measures: (1993-94)

- 21% (167) of the total number (795) of clients enrolled in vocational rehabilitation secured employment
- 100% of the total number of clients (12) trained in the Technical Services Division secured employment
- 91% of the total number of individuals (152) requesting enrollment at the Ellen Beach Mack Rehabilitation Training Center received services
- 100% of the vending facility stands planned for establishment were opened

## Ellen Beach Mack Rehabilitation Center

During the 1993-94 fiscal year, the Ellen Beach Mack Rehabilitation Center (EBMRC) in Columbia served 139 clients. This residential facility offers a variety of training programs including adjustment to blindness, vocational evaluation, horti-therapy and business enterprises. The Ellen Beach Mack Rehabilitation Center also provides the evaluation and criteria for entrance into the Radio Broadcast Training Program, the Technical Services Division Training Program and Greenhouse Management.

The Ellen Beach Mack Rehabilitation Center established a Mini Center on the grounds of the South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind to provide an abbreviated approach to adjustment to blindness services. Individuals attending the Mini Center are clients who select to enter a day program as opposed to a residential program. This may be due to extenuating circumstances that would prevent them from residing at a domicile facility. Classes are taught in the areas of home and personal management, orientation & mobility, braille and communications. The Mini Center served 45 clients during fiscal year 1993-94.

Adopting a holistic approach to rehabilitation, in FY 93/94 the Commission continued to expand its recreation services to a full-fledged program within the Center. The Recreation Program is responsible for promoting physical exercise for clients, many of whom were sedentary prior to coming to the rehabilitation center.

EBMRC conducted its 17th Annual High School Summer Program; 26 students participated. This program assists high school sophomores, juniors and seniors in making the transition from school to the world of work. Students attend three consecutive summers with each year building upon skills taught the previous year.

The High School Summer Program has a work experience component that finds part-time summer employment for students who have mastered adjustment to blindness, mobility and independent living skills. During the 1993-94 summer initiative, eight students held jobs in a variety of settings: two clerical assistants at the Federation of the Blind, B.E.P. vendor assistant at the Veteran's Administration Building canteen, B.E.P. vendor assistant at the Employment Security Commission canteen, library assistant at the SC State Library for the Blind and the Physically Handicapped, cafeteria worker with Campus Chefs at SCCB, technical services assistant at Pavilion Towers, and long term care assistant at C. M. Tucker/Dowdy Gardner Nursing Care Center.



The EBMRC also houses the Columbia District Office Low Vision Clinic. This clinic served a total of 80 clients in FY 93/94. The Agency also has a clinic located in Charleston with 42 clients served, Florence with 32 clients served, Spartanburg with 101 clients served, and Walterboro with 31 clients served. These clinics provide clients with diagnostic evaluations of low vision needs and training in the appropriate use of magnifiers, glasses and other aids designed to maximize a client's remaining vision. This fiscal year the clinics served a total of 286 legally blind and severely visually impaired individuals. Agency clients are provided these services at no cost.

### Business Enterprise Program

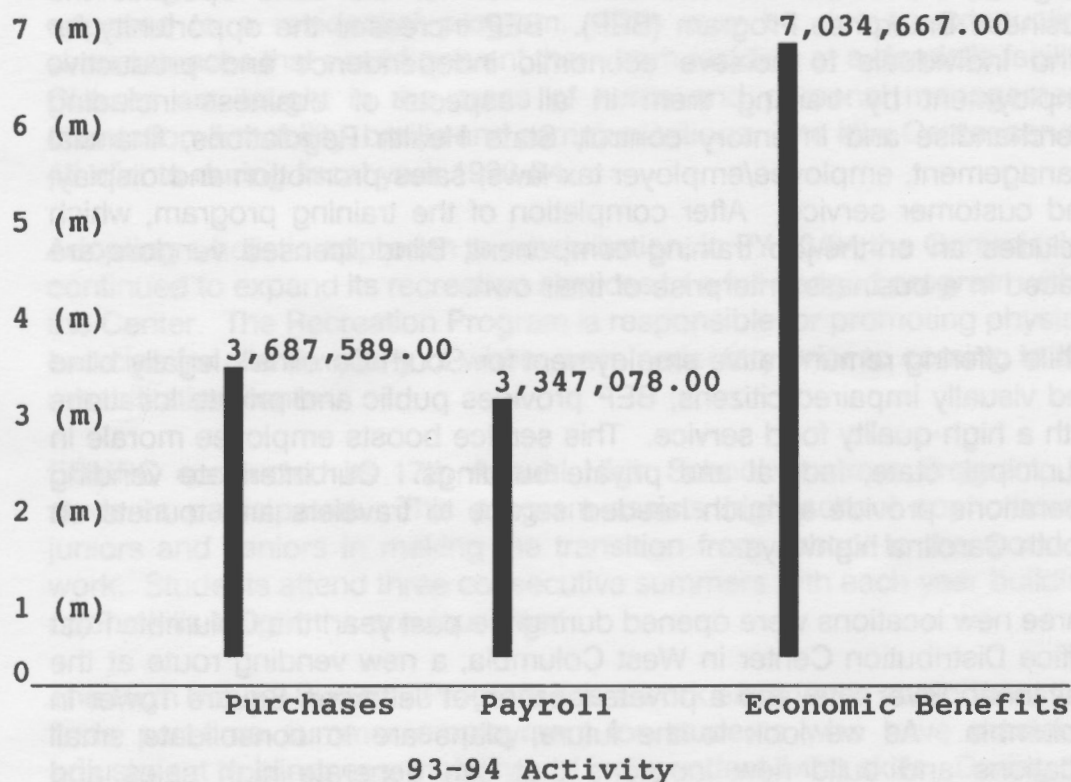
As the State Licensing Agency for the Randolph-Sheppard Vending Facility Program, the South Carolina Commission for the Blind operates the Business Enterprise Program (BEP). BEP increases the opportunity for blind individuals to achieve economic independence and productive employment by training them in all aspects of business including merchandise and inventory control, State Health Regulations, financial management, employee/employer tax laws, sales promotion and display, and customer service. After completion of the training program, which includes an on-the-job training component, Blind licensed vendors are placed in a business enterprise of their own.

While offering remunerative employment for South Carolina's legally blind and visually impaired citizens, BEP provides public and private locations with a high quality food service. This service boosts employee morale in municipal, state, federal and private buildings. Our interstate vending operations provide a much needed service to travelers and tourists on South Carolina highways.

Three new locations were opened during the past year: the Columbia Post Office Distribution Center in West Columbia, a new vending route at the Savannah River Site, and a private location at Jefferson Square Tower in Columbia. As we look to the future, plans are to consolidate small locations and build new locations that can generate high sales and earnings.

Vending facilities represent gainful employment and self-sufficiency for blind licensed vendors. The vendors are independent, taxpaying business persons whose employment is accomplished without the creation of new state jobs. The Business Enterprise Program now has 119 vending operations throughout the state with a sales volume of \$7,293,250. Blind licensed vendors paid \$298,373 in state sales taxes in FY 93/94.

One hundred nineteen (119) blind licensed vendors and 65 assistants operate these facilities. That is a total of 184 jobs generated by BEP. During the past year vendors and assistants collectively earned \$3,347,078, which helped boost the state's economy. The \$1,004,123 in revenues generated by this payroll has been applied to the tax base of federal, state, county, and municipal governments. Additionally, South Carolina blind licensed vendors purchased in excess of \$3,687,589 from wholesalers and suppliers in FY 93/94. Purchases from suppliers such as Coke, Pepsi, Lance, Toms, VSA, J. F. Johnson, etc. have a multiplier effect and help create additional jobs for South Carolina's economy. South Carolina realized a total \$7,034,667 economic benefit from the vendors' and vendor assistants' \$3,347,078 payroll, combined with \$3,687,589 in purchases.



#### Transportation Program

The Client Transportation Program is fully operational in all 46 counties of the State. The Transportation Division is responsible for the daily operations of this program. This Division is manned by a manager, a clerical support specialist, three coordinators and 15 vehicle operators.

During fiscal year 1993-94, the Agency's Transportation Division transported 811 clients for a total of 435,199 miles. Trips for employment totalled 9,920, trips for training for potential employment totalled 5,208 and trips for medical and other related services totalled 4,144. Transportation services covered medical appointments, Agency sponsored job interviews, office visits, outreach training programs, employment and various functions sponsored or co-sponsored by the Agency.

### Disability Determinations

The Disability Determination Unit makes determinations of disability in which blindness is the primary disabling factor. In FY 93/94 the unit received 570 claims. Determinations were made on 580, including 10 that were carried over from the previous fiscal year. The Federal Review component reported an annual accuracy rate of 98.6% for the unit.

All claims were evaluated for referral to the Commission's Vocational Rehabilitation Division, Children's Services or Prevention of Blindness programs for possible services. A total of 314 referrals were made.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION

The Community Services Division provides services that maximize the emotional, social, educational and functional independence of blind adults and children within the state of South Carolina. Services are provided in the areas of Prevention of Blindness, Children's Services and Independent Living.

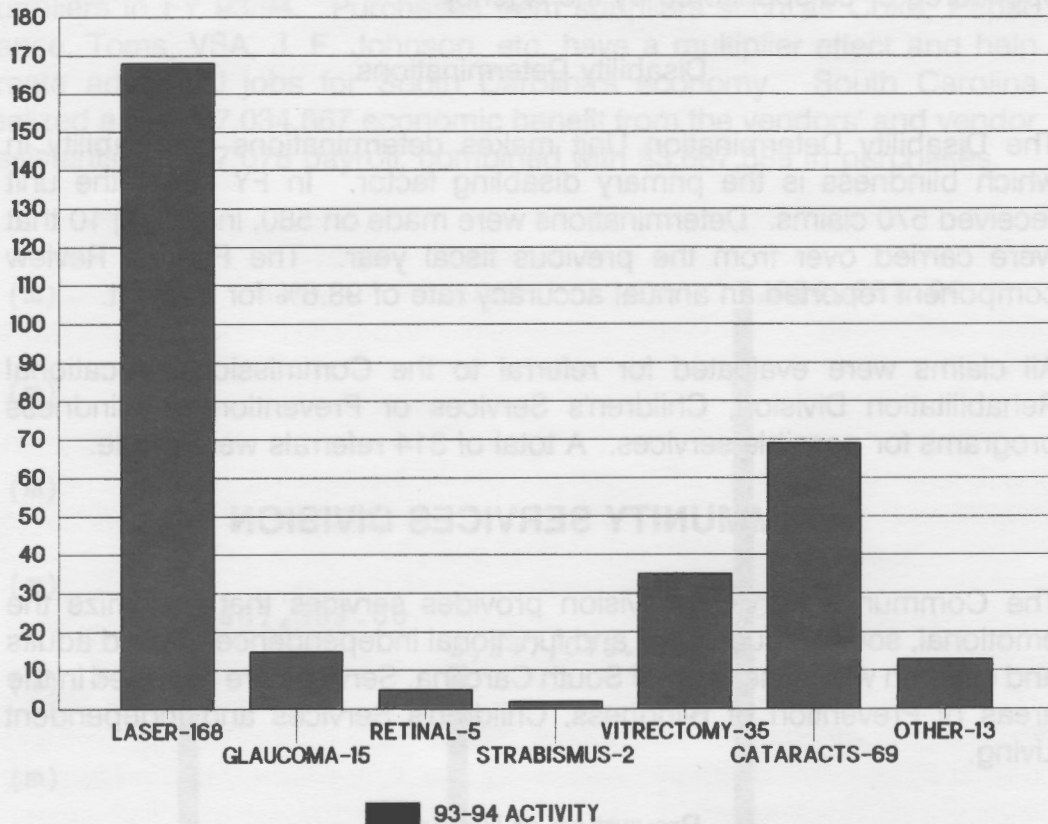
### Prevention of Blindness

During FY 93/94, the Prevention of Blindness Department made 6,466 client contacts. Of that number, 2,046 individuals -- an additional 967 persons over the previous year -- received services that aided in the restoration of their sight or prevented them from losing additional sight. The Prevention of Blindness Department provides eye-related medical services to persons who otherwise could not afford prescribed treatments.

Individuals in this program are provided with eye examinations and follow-up visits for ocular conditions that could lead to blindness without prompt treatment. The Prevention of Blindness Department sponsored 269 eye examinations and 606 follow-up examinations. Approximately 25 pairs of glasses and specialized contact lenses were provided for persons who would otherwise be blind.



Ocular surgeries and treatment sponsored to prevent blindness during this fiscal year included: laser procedures, cataract and glaucoma procedures, retinal detachments, strabismus, vitrectomy, etc. In total, the Prevention Program provided 307 surgeries and treatments in FY 93/94.



Preventing unnecessary loss of sight due to diabetes-related complications or glaucoma continues to be the goal of OPERATION SIGHTSAVER, a program developed by Commissioner Gist. In conjunction with the SC Lions Club Mobile Eye Screening Van and the Columbia Housing Authority, the SCCB coordinated visual screenings for persons residing in 11 housing communities throughout Richland County. In FY 93/94 a total of 324 individuals received an initial visual screening which identified those individuals who may be at risk for loss of sight. A total of 175 individuals were referred to eye specialists, and 25 individuals were referred to the SCCB for additional services. This is an ongoing project in the early detection of diseases which could lead to the unnecessary loss of sight.

## PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

### Workload Indicators: (1993-94)

- 2,046 persons served under Prevention of Blindness
- 6,466 persons screened

### Efficiency Measures: (1993-94)

- \$410 per person
- \$30,000 to conduct initial visual screening for approximately 6,466 persons

### Effectiveness Measures: (1993-94)

- 4,379 served over the last three years
- 18% of budget allocations provide services to prevent blindness versus 82% to provide vocational rehabilitation services

## Children's Services

The mission of the Children's Services Program is to afford blind and visually impaired children the opportunity to develop maximum personal growth, to teach the skills necessary for optimal independent functioning through instruction with the family and child, and to develop competencies for mainstreaming blind and visually impaired children effectively within community programs. The program staff consists of counselors in the Charleston, Aiken, Greenville, Rock Hill, Walterboro and Spartanburg district offices of the SCCB.

Case management, counseling and consulting services are provided primarily through counselor visits to homes and to instructional programs, both private and public. In addition, the department holds regional and statewide support meetings and training workshops for parents and other professionals, as well as instructional programs for children.

During fiscal year 1993-94, counselors served 494 clients. The program received 143 new referrals and referred 23, 16-year-old clients to the SCCB Vocational Rehabilitation Program.

Children's Services Counselors continue to serve on interagency councils established for BabyNet Services in each of the five regions.

The annual statewide Spring Weekend Workshop for Families of Children Who are Blind or Visually Impaired was held March 11-12, 1994 in the Ellen Beach Mack Rehabilitation Center. This event is designed to help parents plan for upcoming Individualized Education Plan (IEP) meetings.

Approximately 27 parents from across the state attended sessions on braille and low vision, related laws as outlined under Special Education, and information regarding the roles, rights and responsibilities of children/parents. Transition **into and out of** public school and effective communication between parents and school personnel also were addressed. While parents participated in meetings, teachers, counselors and more than 30 volunteers entertained approximately 47 clients and their siblings. October 8-9, 1993 was the 20th year of our Pre-school Workshop for Families of Children Who are Blind or Visually Impaired. The theme of this year's workshop was "A Little Bit More Than Love." Topics included transition to pre-school, growing up with a visual impairment, beginning braille, visual functioning and stimulation, and pre-school orientation and mobility.

"Children of the World" was the theme of the 1994 Ringling Brothers/Barnum & Bailey Circus. SCCB, Children's Hospital, WLTX-TV and the Palmetto Chapter of the Telephone Pioneers sponsored approximately 30 children and 30 chaperons for a touch tour and circus performance. This is always an exciting time for everyone!

During the summer months, the Children's Services Program sponsored a week-long life skills camp in cooperation with community programs in Charleston and surrounding counties. In addition, the program provided technical support and assistance to the residential camps available through the SC Lions Club and the Rocky Bottom Camp of the Blind in Pickens County.

#### PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

##### Workload Indicators: (1993-94)

- 494 children served, birth to approximately 16 years of age.
- 143 new referrals

##### Efficiency Measures: (1993-94)

- \$390 per child served

##### Effectiveness Measures:

Early intervention of adjustment to blindness issues greatly impact on the successful vocational rehabilitation of blind and visually impaired children. If appropriate services are developed and provided to family members and children in the formative years, the chances of acquiring age appropriate skills of daily living will increase, thus decreasing the long-term costs of extensive vocational rehabilitation services.



## Independent Living

The Independent Living-State (IDL) Program serves elderly blind (defined as 55 years and older) South Carolinians and operates in conjunction with the Prevention of Blindness Department. IDL assisted 338 individuals in FY 93/94.

This program refers elderly blind individuals to available services in their communities. It provides valuable information on eye diseases, visual impairment as it relates to the aging process and other areas of concern to the individual and his or her family. Independent living services are determined by individual need. Services include simple adaptations made in participants' homes and instruction in skills of daily living. Individuals also participate in training offered by one of our Mobile Outreach teams.

In 1993 the American Foundation for the Blind selected our Independent Living-State Program as one of five national project states. Our program completed its assignment as a project site for an Eldercare grant through the Administration on Aging. A 15-member Eldercare Coalition was formed consisting of elderly blind consumers, SC Aging Network personnel, and civic organization members. The Coalition identified issues relative to the elderly blind of South Carolina. A one-day conference was held in Columbia on November 9, 1993 as a result of the Coalition's work and was attended by approximately 100 persons employed in aging-related fields throughout South Carolina. The conference, "Maximizing the Independence of the Elderly Blind and Visually Impaired," featured presentations on eye diseases associated with aging, orientation and mobility, and recreational activities for older blind persons. Information concerning the conference and the SC Eldercare Coalition is to be disseminated nationally in "Building Bridges, A Resource Packet for Serving Older Visually Impaired Persons" by the Administration on Aging. Because of the SC Eldercare Coalition's successful implementation of the Eldercare grant, the American Foundation for the Blind has selected South Carolina as one of three states to participate in a national transportation accessibility study funded by Project Action (Accessible Community Transportation in our Nation). The project will study the transportation needs of persons who are blind and visually impaired and explore avenues of ensuring greater accessibility in local communities.

Two Senior Camps, held in September and April, were co-sponsored with the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina at Rocky Bottom Camp of the Blind in the mountains of Pickens County. The camps provided a week of learning, recreation and fellowship for approximately 25 blind senior citizens.

## PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

### Workload Indicators: (1993-94)

- 338 individuals served

### Efficiency Measures: (1993-94)

- \$500 (one-time expenditure) per person for independent living training
- \$150.00 per client for services directly related to maintaining independent living skills
- \$230.00 per individual for in-home or community based training in adjustment to blindness

### Effectiveness Measures:

- 1,331 persons served over the last 3 years
- \$19,710 annual cost per person for nursing or residential care (based on Medicaid rates of \$54.00 per day) in comparison to \$500 to teach independent living skills

## Mobile Outreach

The Mobile Outreach Program offers community-based services in the area of independent living. Instruction is provided in daily living skills, adjustment to blindness and orientation and mobility. During FY 93/94, units located in Columbia, Charleston and Greenville evaluated or provided outreach services to 92 individuals with severe visual disabilities.

This program serves individuals in our Vocational Rehabilitation and Independent Living programs. It affords older individuals with visual disabilities the opportunity to remain independent within their home environment, thus removing the fear of becoming dependent on others. These community-based programs support the adjustment to blindness skills for those persons unable to attend training at the Ellen Beach Mack Rehabilitation Center in Columbia.

Central locations are selected within communities where the need exists. Outreach staff has established an excellent relationship with churches across South Carolina that allow the staff to utilize their facilities for training. Individuals were evaluated or programs have been held in Rock Hill, Aiken, Conway, Charleston, Walterboro, Greenwood and Columbia. Clients from surrounding counties were transported to these central locations via the Agency's transportation system.

# **S.C. COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND**

**FISCAL YEAR 1993-94**

## **SOURCES OF FUNDS**

<b>Federal Government</b>	<b>3,158,697</b>
<b>State Government</b>	<b>4,166,346</b>
<b>Earmarked Revenue</b>	<b>71,150</b>
<b><i>Total - All Funds</i></b>	<b>7,396,193</b>

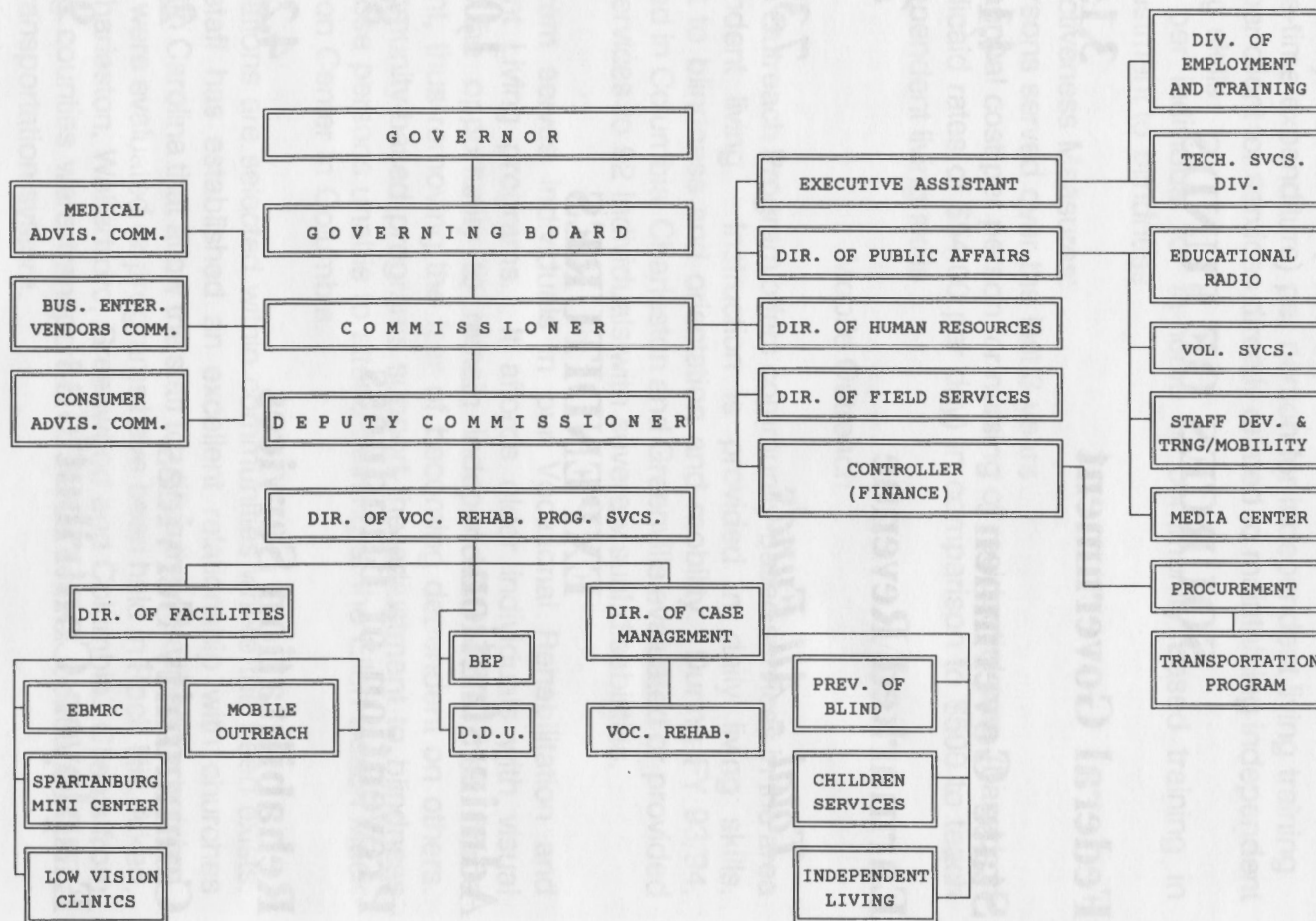
## **EXPENDITURES**

<b>Administration</b>	<b>1,034,873</b>
<b>Prevention of Blindness</b>	<b>892,268</b>
<b>Rehabilitation Services</b>	<b>4,296,006</b>
<b>Community Services</b>	<b>225,465</b>
<b>Employer Contributions</b>	<b>947,581</b>
<b><i>Total Expenditures</i></b>	<b>7,396,193</b>



# SC COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND

## ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



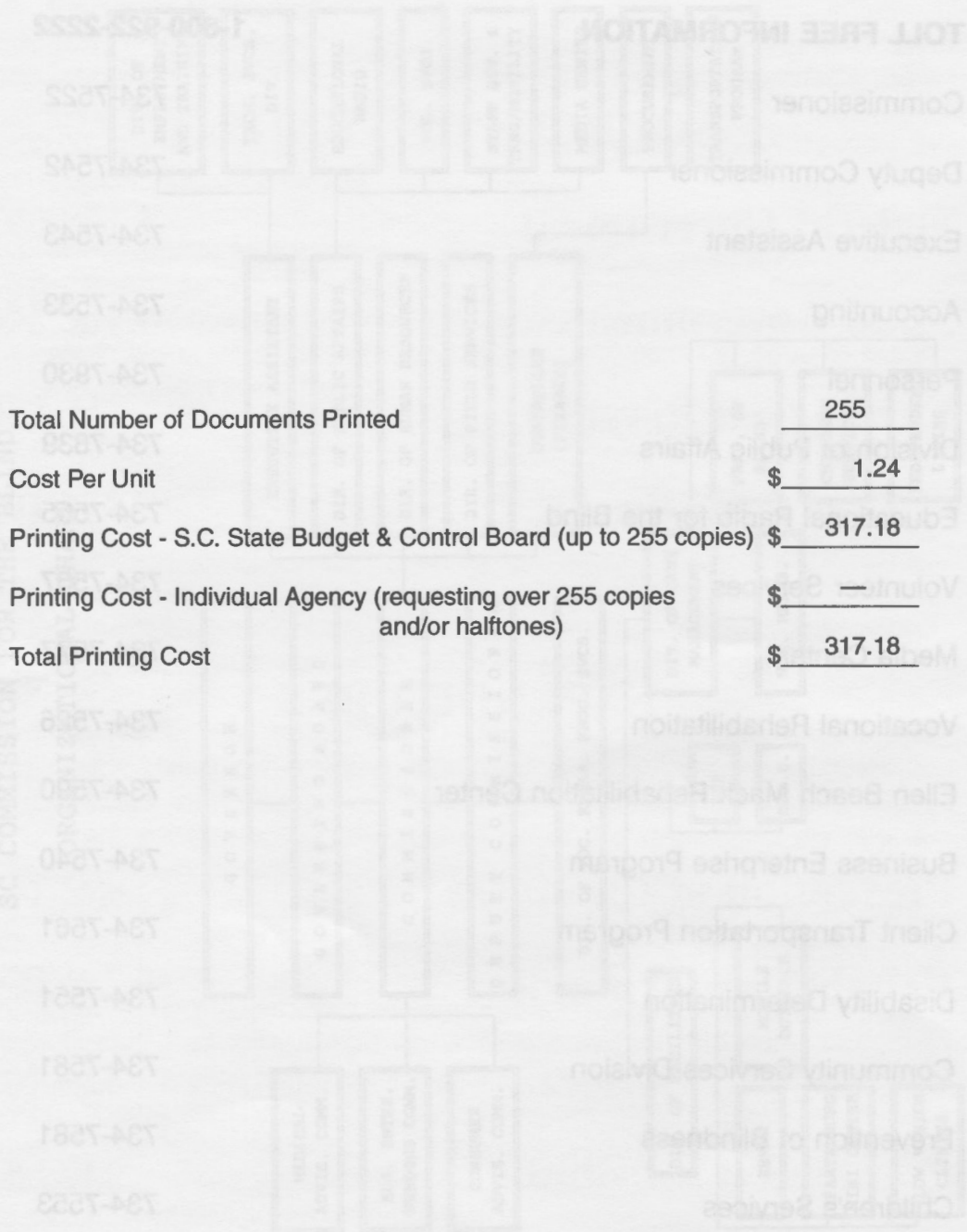
# ASSISTANCE DIRECTORY

## TOLL FREE INFORMATION

**1-800-922-2222**

Commissioner	734-7522
Deputy Commissioner	734-7542
Executive Assistant	734-7543
Accounting	734-7533
Personnel	734-7930
Division of Public Affairs	734-7839
Educational Radio for the Blind	734-7555
Volunteer Services	734-7557
Media Center	734-7577
Vocational Rehabilitation	734-7526
Ellen Beach Mack Rehabilitation Center	734-7590
Business Enterprise Program	734-7540
Client Transportation Program	734-7561
Disability Determination	734-7551
Community Services Division	734-7581
Prevention of Blindness	734-7581
Children's Services	734-7553

# ASSISTANCE DIRECTORY



Total Number of Documents Printed	<u>255</u>
Cost Per Unit	<u>\$ 1.24</u>
Printing Cost - S.C. State Budget & Control Board (up to 255 copies)	<u>\$ 317.18</u>
Printing Cost - Individual Agency (requesting over 255 copies and/or halftones)	<u>\$ —</u>
Total Printing Cost	<u>\$ 317.18</u>



